



Deadline approaching for local food market development grants

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MADISON – The initial deadline is quickly approaching for farmers and others in Wisconsin's food industry who want to apply for the 2015 round in the Buy Local, Buy Wisconsin grant program. These grants can help farms and business more efficiently process, market and distribute food in local markets including to stores, schools and institutions.

Pre-proposals are due by 4 p.m. Monday, Dec. 1, at the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP). Each pre-proposal must include a cover page, a completed budget template and a three-page project description. The necessary documents and instructions can be found online at http://datcp.wi.gov/Business/Buy_Local_Buy_Wisconsin/BLBW_Grants.

Qualified projects selected during the pre-proposal round will be invited to complete a full proposal. The recipients will be announced in March 2015.

A total of \$200,000 is available in grant funding; the maximum award for each project is \$50,000. Grant applicants must provide a cash or in-kind match of at least 50 percent of the total project budget.

Qualified applicants include individuals, groups or businesses involved in Wisconsin production agriculture, food processing, food distribution, food warehousing, retail food establishments or agricultural tourism operations. Proposals could include collaborations or partnerships.

Since 2008, DATCP has awarded 29 BLBW grants for a total of \$825,400. The program has resulted in 124 jobs retained or created and has benefited 2,062 producers. To learn more about the program or its economic impacts, visit http://datcp.wi.gov/Business/Buy_Local_Buy_Wisconsin/BLBW_Grants.

If you have questions about the application process, contact DATCP's Grants Manager Juli Speck at 608-224-5134 or Juli.Speck@Wisconsin.gov.